Nantucket 10th mo, 20th, 1787 #1 p1

Dear Son Thomas

Paternal affection has not been wanting, although I have not wrote thee before, as it flows to every branch of my offspring almost to an unlimitted degree, desiring their wellfare in every sense of the word. I expect by this time if the innoculation took effect thou may begin to feel the eruptive fever coming on. I hope it may please Divine Providence to favour thee to pass through it in an easy manner, & if so remember from whence every blessing comes. I have not time to enlarge being much hurried in our oil business. This goes by the Susanna, Micajah Coffin by whom we send Wms trunks containing the bed linnen all clean, one pillow, thy waistcoat & breeches folded in a blanket, Wms. coat & waistcoat, some stores for your return if should be favour'd to get well, (which I feel a strong hope at present will be the case) such as tea, sugar, coffee, biscuit, cake & etc. There is also some balsom. The bed shall send by the friendship. My love to Wm and all our fr'd with a large share to thyself in w'ch thy mother Brothers & Sister unite, I am thy affectionate father

Wm Rotch

#27

Nantucket 12th mo, 9 - 1789

Dear Thomas

Notwithstanding Samuel will write thee perhaps there may be some things that may escape his memory. The rigger & Blocks were on board Prince before thou left us, since which we have put on board the following articles; 5 sails, viz, main sail, main staysail, foresail, foretopsail, & forestaysail, 2 new pumps 1 pumpspear & box, 1 coil of cord 1*2*18----1 coil of 1*12---parts of a coil 1*13, 1 lanthorn, one winding tacklefall, 2 blocks, 1 stove with one of the pipes---several small articles are wanting but our great hurry at loading the Speedwell, would not admit of collecting them. A. Hoeg thinks there is 1 set of pump gear left at Newport. The stove we talked of sending is gone, I suppose in the Hope, have therefore send the one belonging to the Falkland, with one of the pipes only. If there should be a Coppersmith at hand perhaps it had best be supplied with pipes, if not tin may be used for the present.

Expect to send the remaining small articles necessary by the next opportunity. The large coil of cordage may serve for landyards if needed, but it will be unnecessary to cut them as it is not large enough for proper landyards. The 2 parts may be stoped together in lieu of a knot. Stoddard writes us that part of one wale is rotten, I wish it well examined, & if not a long piece, & easy to put in it may be best to have it done there, but if much is to be done, had rather the vessel should be brot. here, & have it done at this place, as it is late in the year, it is better to have the vessell brot. ~~brot~~. away as soon as possible, in that case thou can get some wale pieces saw'd out there & brot. in the vessell if they are much longer then we expect to want, it will not be amiss------if G. Gibbs has some of that good oak timber left, should be glad thou would get aft & have some wales saw'd out for the Friendship, let them to be 8 inches wide each and as long as thou can get them good, 3½ or 4 inches thick, she has double wales , get them for both also get of Stoddard the piece he saw'd off the waste planks for keels & gunwales of Boats. I spoke to him for them. I have not had time even to try to get another man besides } Smith, therefore thou must get help there untill we send more. The money sent by Benny in Newport not being ours, Sammy will write thee about it. Would have thee write by the way of Bedford (if no direct opp'r)*often & give us an acct. of the State of the vessell & what articles are wanted from here. Speedwell goes tomorrow morning, wind & weather permitting. Not recollecting any thing further to add except our united love to thee, sister Rodman & all the family . Thy afft. father

*offers

Wm. Rotch

P. S.
Thy trunk is on the board Prince. The key ~~did~~ d:l. him.

£17 Mar 1790?

£17 Mar 1790?

Nantucket
3/17/1790

No original

SAMUEL RODMAN

Newport.

Letter from Wm. Rotch
dated Nantucket 3rd mo. 17th.
1790 to S. Rodman, Newport.

#3pl

Nantucket 3[illegible]mo. 17, 1790.

Dear Son Samuel,

Thy speedy reception of theirs of the 13th inst. c/o Sanford, who returned here early on the second day morning relieved our anxiety respecting Williams health, the restoration of which in so short a time is cause of thankfullness. I wish he may be preserved from another attack.

The letters from Banj. DeBauque, with Wm. and the rest and the memorial came so far. The advances are far, very far beyond any expectation, with the addition of the bills not then come to hand, still renders it more disagreeable. If thou coincides with me for as speedy a remedy in part as is in our power, I wish thee immediately to write to Enderby that as soon as our part of the oil, say 74, (leaving Wms. at his own disposal) is in cash, which I hope will be £1500 Stg. that they advise the brothers of it, and desire them to answer their drafts to the amount of our part, and write to the Brothers also to correspond with them, and draw when they are in cash. This will not only reimburse them so much but will return as the great loss on money remitted from Dunkirk to London to pay our bills. I wish thee to write them both and also to Banj. on the subject, with duplicates of all via New York, as soon as possible. We shall not want this money for speculation, as it is not likely we shall not make any this year. The oil to C. &. D. will furnish us as far as will be necessary. If the last bills to Champlins are not gone, say the £100 by Wm. to Thos. and the £100 by us to Oliver, if they can now do better, as it is probable they can from the low price of exchange, if thou could find

[17 Mar 1790]

#3p2

they would freely give them up, if thou approve. I should like to advance or rather repay the money and stake them back. A sufficient reason is, the great loss on exchange between the two countries. This thou'll act in as thou thinks best. If not taken back, will it not be best to draw on Enderbey and remit the Brothers immediately £500 Stg. (do as thou thinks best.)

I don't expect to have time to write to William now, but untill we see our way out of D. B's matters I shall not be able to help him as I wish toward the farm, which hope he'll postpone for the present.

I have been confined ever since thou left us and my cold no better, but it need not hasten thy return. Pray don't fail writing to B. Ds. that some remittance will be made them, if thou approve, which I think thou will.

With united love to self, Wm., thy Mother and Sisters, I am thy affectionate father,

Wm. Rotch.

P. S. I shall forward duplicate by Prince that thou may have my proposals as early as possible.

21st.

Since writing the foregoing, I have drawn a bill on Enderbeys to Oliver for £100, intending to exchange it with him. I draw it this day, but dated it 19th, also two letters to Enderbeys to give him to accompany it, copy of which I inclose thee, and if the bills of £200 to G. Champlain are not gone. I think thou had better draw on them, instead of repaying the money, as I have hinted in their letter and and take back the others, but when all things are laid before thee, thou'll act as thou think best, but pray write De Bauquy as soon as may be. I will enclose two sets of blank bills for thee if ocassion. If need thou can take Enderbys letters from Oliver, and make alterations or additions as thou thinks best.

[17 Mar 1790]

reaching this country soon, as I fear the mist is too thick over the eyes of one easily to be dissapated, unless he has paid I.----the---- pounds---------The English Parliment was provoy'd to the 3d. of next month, but from some troubles in England and the affairs of France it was suddenly called the 13th. We have been anxiously waiting for the King's speech as the criterion to judge from. It has arrived this afternoon, by which it appears that a war against France is decided on. This will probably embolden Spain and Russia to take the same step. These combined fleets doubtless will make a formidable appearance against this country. What the event will be, time will discover, but is far beyond the reach of man.

Thy observation is just, respecting my taking a part in the welfare of your family, respecting Hannah's affair. I can only say I wish her to act as may appear best. I have some acquaintence with Samuel and was always glad to be in his company and may say, I sincerely love him and never saw any thing but a steady consistant conduct in him and if they ever come together, they have my most sincere wishes for their present and future happiness.

I desire thou would pay Elizabeth Wooten, fifteen pounds Sterling by direction of her brother Paul Pease, who is now here, and he is to have so much passed to our credit with Enderbeys. I wish thee to do it soon.

I wished to have given thee some particular account of the affairs of this nation, the trial of the King etc. which is now going on, but have not time. I am with the united love of our family present to thee dear Eliza. and the children, with our relatives and friends.

Thy affectionate father,

William Rotch.

To Mary Rodman
Newport.

#4 p1

Nantucket 4th mo., 21th, 1790

Dear Sister

Thy very acceptable favour of the 4th in't we duly rec'd but dare not lay claim to the favourable sentiments entertain'd in thy grateful heart; although the dispensing hand of Divine Providence has been liberal to us beyond many other in the things of this world; yet we desire never to consider it as giving us a preamminence over others, but rather to impress our minds with humble thankfulness to the Great Author of all our blessings: far greater Riches than these perishing enjoyments have I often view'd with delight within thy borders: sweet must be thy consolation now in the evening of thy day, to behond a blessing attending thy painful labour, in nurturing, watching, guarding, counseling, & admonishing the tender minds of thy beloved offspring, through the progressive steps of childhood and youth, to a degree of establisment in riper years, in which with pleasure we participate, in the union of our family: if there is any inequality the defeciency is on our part: I dont mean to flatter, knowing if we are any thing that we ought to be, it is not of mirit, and that we ought to magnify that power by which we are what we are, and now as thou observe a triple alliance is likely to take place, through Thomas and Charity, which meets our full approbation: we wish them all the filicity in this life, that can contribute to that desirable event at the final close, and that they may be true helpmeets to each other in the trus sense of the expression. We notice thy kind invitation but doubt our being able to attend. Thy sister cannot well leave home: thy Brother expects to set out for Boston in a few days, and fears he shall accomplish his business which is of importance, timely to reach Newport, if that should be the case, we may assure thee, inclination is not wanting, we are sorry to find thy health so low, we wish thee to avoid fatigue on this occasion, believe we are of unitedly of opinion that little need be done, though we do not mean to dictate to thee, but would gladly if in our power take the weight of it from thee. We are with endeared love to thee & Children thy affectionate

Brother & Sister

Wm Rotch
Eliz'a Rotch

#5 p1

2nd day morning, Boston 5 mo, 3'd, 1790

Dear Son Thomas

I left home on 7th day afternoon & got safe here yesterday, after as smooth a passage as ever I know (of 25 hours) I expect Sammy sett off for Bedford yesterday, hope he got there last evening & will soon be at Newport. I took my rout by water, with intent of any ways convenient to stay here (if a good passage) this day, & go up for Providence tomorrow with a hope of being present at thy marriage; but now give it over, as it mustbe fatiguing to me to go & return so suddenly, besides some business that needs my attention here for a few days. I know under every circumstance thou'll excuse me, my will is not wanting to give countinance by my presence to a union that so fully meets my approbation, therefore accept my best wishes for a satisfactory performance of the Ceremonious part, and a future improvement in well doing. I have rec'd a number of letters here from London fromC & D. Enderby but to my great disappointment not one from Benj. Whether he didnot write by Scot or Bernard or whether our letters have been plunder'd I know not, but hope not the *** latter; as I have not time to write Sammy or Wm by this post please to give them this for perusal. I have acct. of sales of the oil by Seleck and White sold at £ 50. Lead at £ 60- on which as it stands is about £ 100- 4g loss on ours & Wms; 1/3 on the whole shipment to them, but they have charg'd a commission not only on the ——— sales but also on the addition of all the charges, which amt. to £3955 at 27 p cent is £ 98- odd which nearly ballances the loss exclusive insurance & loss on exchange. They mention the prospect of the oil falling to 40 or £ 45 S which I fear will be the case though not so much dependance on what they say, yet there was not less than 500 tuns on hand unsold (3 mo, 20) the date of their last *** letter; their ship Amelia has just arrived (not the masters name) with 140 tun sperm oil but from whence they dont mention. I think the ship sent round Cape Horn was the Queen, Capt Skiels, perhaps they might send two. They mentioned having given Wm. orders for 100 tun sperm oil if to be got at £ 7 pg (which is at present equal to no order) our oil to C+D not sold, I heartily wish it had been gone off at £ 50. T. Dickason Jr. & family are daily expected, hope by him to have letter frm. Benj. I do not expect to leave town in less than two weeks if Wm. wants anything done before he comes here, desire him to write one to Eliz. care. I have several letters for him from C & D which I shall keep for him. I suppose they only contain Inventory etc. which Burgess has offered to do the needful at the custom house. Intend writing by next post interim with love to her self and whole connection

Thy affectionate father

Wm Rotch

#6p1

Boston, 5th mo, 15th, 1790

Dear Son Thomas

I duly rec'd thine of the 7th in't with Williams addition; I am pleased to hear that your marriage was conducted to your own & your friends satisfaction; and as by this means a beloved daughter is added to our family, I hope she will find in us that parental affection that is not only her due, but our duty as well as inclination to extend, I think it may be almost ceremonious to say any thing that may appear like an invitation, believing you are fully sensible that your company in our family as soon as you can make it convenient, will be truly acceptable us. As you are now enter'd as it were upon The Theatre of life, I can find no language of my own do full to my wishes as that excellent advice recorded in holy writ, "seek first the Kingdom of Heaven and the righteousness thereof and all other things(necessary) shall be added" (or words similar) this I wish may be your concern, and more my own in my younger days. Wm reached here this afternoon, was taken with the prevailing Epedemic (the influenza) soom after he got home, but by sweating and Laying by one day enabl'd to set out on 6th day, & now seems pretty well except the remaing of the disorder which appears wearing off, it still prevails here & in the Towns around, it is been attended with considerable mortality in this Town, though mostly to aged people, often six or seven buried in a day, I took the disorder early on my arrival here, but kept out for two or three days, since which through the unfavourable weather (mostly easterly wind till this day) I have been confin'd to the house, but am now so well (though a heavy cough attends me at times) that I hope to set out, the day after tommorrow morning for Haverhill with intent if well to return here next day. Wish to here from thee by next Post, particularly with the state of Sister Rodmans health, for which I feel concern'd . I am also desirous to here from Lydia as I find by Wm she has been indispos'd, should be glad of a line frm. her. Cousin Wm. Macy has been sick here, oblig'd to let Crocker go off without him, but is now pretty well & seeking a passage. ----3rd day morning, fine weather, I feel recruiting, hope to set off tommorrow morning on my eastern journey. Wm. pretty well, & gone to meeting. I may venture (though absent) to unite his love with my own, to thee, dear Charity & Lydia, Sister Rodman with every branch of the family, in which I am thy affectionate father.

Wm. Rotch

#7pl

Dunkirk, 9th mo, 14th, 1790

Dear Children Thomas & Charity

Although time will not permit one to say much, yet I wish to hand you some pledge of parental affection; you are much the companions of my tender care and simpathy in this seperat'd state, but by looking to and keeping near the fountain of life, you will experience a never failing source of comfort in every probation that may attend, which in the course of your pilgrimage here will doubtless be of many and various, this has been and ever will be the lot of those who wish to follow the footsteps of the flock of Christs companions. I must refer you to Sammy for the particulars of our passage, though nothing peculiarly remarkable attended it: we have cause of humble thankfulness that this was the case, and for our safe preservation over the great Ocean which was sometimes Awfully Majestic and terrific We are all at present much favour'd with health: though sickness is appro- - - - - we thought there was great danger of - - - -

Dunkirk 10th mo. 12, 1790.

Dear Son Samuel Rodman,

I will first enumerate the several conveyances I have wrote thee by, since I have left America. 8th. mo.2nd. pr Jn. Chadwick near Georges Bank, 13th pr.* the Grantham Packet,Capn. Bell near the Great Bank, both for Halifax. 9th mo. 5th, (the day of our arrival here) pr.* Capn. Roberdo for Newbury Port under cover to Jos. Hussey. 3 pr.* Capn.* Thayer via London of the 7th mo.14th,(the last I forget the date, but was some days after the 2nd) this under cover to Saml Eliot. The 2nd under T Dickason Jnr.,3 pr.* Micajab Coffin of the 18th and the 23rd ult. & 6th inst. which completes the whole.I cannot recollect that in either I have acknowledged the rect.* of thine of the 8th mo. 13 pr.* P, Bunker with our certificates which I duly recd., he had about 34 days passage. This is intended by the Two Friends, Abishai Haydon, Master, this vessell* being too small for a distant fishery, I have now sent her out almost wholly to employ, I Rathbone and 3 other men who are to go with Moores in the Lydia to Greenland, as the time for that voige was so distant that men could not be retained without being on wages, and no prospect of their being procured at that time if these who have been with him and used to the business(that is the three) should go elsewhere; she has a small ft.(freight) in of about L-50 Stg. in about 10 Tuns* of hemp and some duck for the New Ship and about 4 Tuns* of hemp & some Tea of W. Haydons,(all Flemish Tuns) A. Haydon is to return here in her.as she must not be detained at Bedford on acct. of the season for Greenland, and thinking the communication between you may be obstructed,I have desir'd Wm. to fill her with our hhd. staves in the hold, the smallest of them(leaving the very thick ones at present) as some part of them are so very thick that they must be reduced before ship'd & to fill her between decks with good Cedar boards; if a frt. of oil should appear without detention for Havre (but not Rouan) her hold may be filled with that and as many hhd. or Barl. staves as can be stow'd among it, but as before, between decks with Cedar Boards.-these directions I have given him as a provision against detention

[12 Oct 1790]

#8 p2

for want of communication,wch. if the way is open thou can vary as circumstances may appear, as I have no doubt but there is a pretty good Sperm Fishery in the neighbourhood of Ireland, Western Islands etc. for a summer cruize if the prospect will bear, I think it probable this vessell may be employ'd to advantage, or if I knew she could not, I should like cousin Jo should have her to pass between this & you, I think bad as she is she might be employed to some advantage.please to exchange her Register, let thy name & mine only be mentioned as I do not intend Benj. a shall be concerned in her.- when I wrote thee last I thought by this time I should have been able to have given thee the state of our acct. with DeBauque, but it cannot be done at present, not from any irregularity in it, but from qt.(quantity) pt)(point) of Sales of many parcels being made and vessell Bills not in, nor all compleated* fitting, we now stand by calculation about 33,000 livers* in their debt but they tell me there is more than that sum to come to acct for Sales already made but not yet due; besides we daily expect 28,ooo as I wrote thee before the Penl.& Canton's Bounties on last Southern voiges*wch.* is order'd immediately by the Ntl. Assembly to be paid, and for the little delay by a letter last night frm. Lewis DeBauque(one of the comp) & a deputy to the Assembly frm. this Town, the Financere has recd. a severe censure by letter from th Committeee for liquodation(to whom these demands are intrusted)for protracting the payment;besides this, the Penl. and Lydia to Greenld* with the Maria & 2 Frds.* last voiges will be still due, of which with the Mary Certificates are gone forward & I hope ere long be order'd,and recd:we have now the same thing to gaurd against as we once had in America, that is a paper system, the Natl. Assembly have already issued and are issueing Twelve hundred millions of Livres,wch.at the par Exche. is Fifty millions of pounds Sterg.-it is an enormous sum & funded on the Estates of the Clergy,which is much preferable to ours, (on a Reolution of Congress) the Estates are computed at one third of the wealth of the Kingdom & are to be sold for this paper only; it is made a Currency in all cases, this

c/2 0 of 1790 3

#8 p3

step is a master stroke of policy in one respect, there were many people much opposed to the Sale of the Clergys lands, but now being saddled with this paper,funded only on those lands & other Estates, have quite altered their tone, and are as sanquine as others that the Estates ought to be sold & the paper redeemed;but as good as it may be, I am determined to be cautious; we cannot avoid receiving it, but have come to a resolution to sell nothing but for ready money, deductg.* the discount of Interest on the usual time of Credit & when we have surplus to lay it out in the best articles we can to save ourselves, no bills as yet are less than 200 livers* & but few of this sum, being mostly 300 and 1000-this keeps out a little hard money,but it is difficult to get it except by laying out a part in a Shop, and paygt. 3 to 4% discount for what we receive in Cash,besides giving up the Interest wch. they carry 3% per annum; exchange on London is still worse, 27-10 to 28 is the lowest, and very few will draw at that, I expect it will soon get to 30 and perhaps stand; but keep these things within thy own breast, least it should affect Bills in America through our information. I wrote thee several times that DeBauque had not drawn the L-1000-on London that we ordered; and desir'd that thou would not draw any on Enderby nor Dickason if not already done, untill thou heard from me, I still make the same request, we have L-1200 Srg. to pay there for Copper Iron hoops etc. I intended to have purchased Bills on London on the rect. of the 28,00 for the Bounties, while they were at 27 though a great loss, but not yet receiving it I cannot think of giving what is now asked even if I hadthe money;another promissinf source I have had for a time through three purchasers for the Maria and Eliza, but upon measuring her(though full deep for her size) was not quite deep ena.* for 3 heights of Tobago* Sugar hhds. which are like those of Jamica;6 Inches was wantg* in depth, the last trial has now fell through, on account of the high exchange, the whole is now at an end, as I am determined not to sell her for paper, of which I could take a large sum; she is so good a vessell*that if we can only make out to pay for her by the time, and discharge our

[12 Oct 1790]

#8 p4

London debt I shall not repine; I think it now much better to keep her in the fishery either here, or in America as the circumstances of Peace and War takes place, (the latter at present seems most probable) and take the Canton out on her return; I wish thee to make no speculation of any kind, untillwe get our affairs well arranged, what we draw in the future on our accounts must be in livers*, wch*. may be made payable here or in Paris at the option of the purchaser, I would have thee begin immediately in this business, and either draw Bills and send to Philda New York, Boston, or all, as thou finds the course of Exchange, or direct our several correspondets to draw on DeBauques on our acct.*, I suppose Hews and Anthony would require no more comms.(say $2\frac{1}{2}$ pr. ct.) for drawing than indorsing, they could then accomodate the purcasers to their minds,)to the amount in the whole of Twenty or Thirty Thousand livers*when the loss includg*Commisns* does not exceed 5 pr. ct. and thou may go as much higher than the 5 pr. ct. as our necessity may require, and if thou can collect in this way and pay for ~~this~~ the Ship before the time, I wish it to be done, as no advantage can arise to us after the money is in our hands here, no Interest being paid us, perhaps West and Bowman will allow interest if pd.* before the time. DeBauques desires us to take the same mehtod to draw on them when it can be done on acct. of the New Ship, they will not mind being drawn on before hand if it can be done in Livers*, as the paper answers all payments in this Country, but when that cannot be done & money is wanted to carry her on,recourse must be had to Bills in London, but I hope by taking it in time, thou will be able to do it in Livers-; in this case we have first to look to ourselves; but I think in future thou had better put the whole matter of the Ship in Wms.* hands & Charge him with what we have paid; as I can see no advantage arising to us from being pricipal in the business. I hope we had considerable money in I Hussey hands when collected, with the money due from Delano, to help thee along toward the first payment of the Maria and Eliza. I wrote Silvs.* Hussey before I came away desirg.*payment for his balle*.

[12 Oct 1790]

#8p5

wch. I beleive was L-150 or more, I sent him the acct. & requested his note if he could not pay, I inclosed a duplicate acct. to his brother Jos. with a rect. on it for his Note,which desir'd him to take of his Bookes and then exchange the accounts-among my Notes is one of F. W. Geyers for L-59 add.Lmt. which when I was last in Boston he told me he would pay in the winter, please to send it to J,Hussey to receive. I hope Sole and Parks has got the rest of the Ship Timber to Bedford & that it is in the water, I wish Claghorn to see that a plentiful frame is provided for a Ship of 75 foot keel,28 beam, 12 feet 2inches hold & 5½ feet between decks 309 Tuns*, as I have some expectation of engaging for such a vessell* at a certain sum to be compleat,to be built after the other is done. whale oil is dull 20 sois is the most Sperm, Wms. sold at 46 on the Quay at 6 mos. a good price if we could have taken the money at a discount of Interest frm. the Credit, but we fail'd and now is uncertain * what it ~~to*be*don~~ will be;~~here~~* bone very bad, we have just an offer for all ours by the Dianna at 180 Livers*pr.Ct. hundd.*weight of 108 with 15 pr. pd. deduction for dist.* etc. with other deductions of etc.etc. at 10 mo. ~~d~~ Credit, which upon the whole from our weight at Nantucket by some they have had sold in the same way, nearly clear of every charge 20 or 21 sous; and being desirous to close that disagreeable scene, I have advised the acceptance of the offer for prompt pay discountg,- the Interest, but no other terms. I desire thou would pay Amos Simmons of Long Plain,(Innkeeper) oposite* Eben Allens Junr. Thirty Three pounds Six Shillings ~~and~~ & 8 Lnd.* being one hundd. Crowns I recd. of his son, Amos Simmons, Jun. here to send out, or pay to his father; from the scarcity of hard money I have been obligd to make us of it; please to take two receits* and send me one, that I may ex-change for mine. pray dont fail to send out the Lydia's acct. as Moores wants to make a settlement, thou may send us his acct.likewise. I do not recollect whether we were to procure Spars & Planks stocks for Claghorn for the New Ship or not,if we were I hope tyey were got this fall that they may be ready for him in winter.clear boards must be provided by us or

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#8 p6

mo. Credit, which upon the whole from our weight at Nantucket by some they have had sold in the same way, nearly clear of every charge 20 or 21 sous; and being desirous to close that disagreeable scene, I have advised the acceptance of the offer for prompt pay discounting the Interest, but no other~~terms~~ terms. I desire thou would pay Amos Simmons of Long Plain, (innkeeper,) oposite* Eben Allens Junr. Thirty Three pounds Six Shillings and 8 (L.) being one hundred Crowns I (received) of his Son, Amos Simmons, Junr. here to send out, or pay to his father; from the scarcity of hard money I have been obliged to make use of it; please to take two receits* and send me one, that I may exchange for mine. (P)pray dont fail to send out the Lydia's ~~account~~ acct. as Moore wants to make a settlement, thou may send us his (account.) likewise. I do not recollect whether we were to procure Spars and Planks stocks for Claghorn for the New Ship or not, if we were I hope they were got this fall that they may be ready for him in the winter. (C) clear boards must be provided by us or William early in the spring for her joiner work. Whippey's Ballance will be in the DeBayques hands. W Long of the Hope, came in the two Frds., he is out of our employ and I fear is in debt, having got but 30 or 40 tuns* with Brocks. I received by last Post the Sales of our oil shipd on joint acct. to Dickason & Co., nett proceeds of the 2 parcels, our half 1125-3 and 265-12-4 is 1390-15-4 Stg, there is a loss, but little to what I expected; the (account) of Sales I intend to inclose thee as they do not mention having forwarded them to America. I understand by Cousin Mary Coffin that thou proposes to assist her son Charles in setting up his trade next spring when his apprentiship shall be expired, which I am pleased with, I do not know in what line, but as his Stock will require but a small sum I should like on my own part, to lend him (enough)enf. for a stock, a few cords Ash & timber and 1 or 2 tuns* of Lignumvite I suppose would be the principle, the first, perhaps thou could procure without money; I am to get him a Saw for Lignumvite and send it out next Spring. we are now with Mary,

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she is very attentive to us and endeavors to do everything in her power to serve us, our quarters are rather short, but Benjamin is looking out for larger accomodations; we have not yet conversed one word on Bartlets affairs, but I intend when at leisure to give her an(account) acct. of every movement; ; I am glad thou and William have been to Boston and treated with Sullivan on the Subject, I hope it will prove as he supposes, which would give us the least trouble, and be the most just, I have made Enquiry into his charge of attendance on the ship we discharged him, and find the charge is good, according to our own custom, he must therefore be Credited for it. Benj. Hussey has Whippeys order to remit his wife L 30. Stg as he cannot get hard money to send out, I beleive he writes to her to consult thee on the mode, which can be no other than to draw payment in London u(n)less* she can get person to sell a Bill for Livers*- if Coleman has arrived with any oils, if not already ship(pe)d perhaps thou may get it(on board) the Two Friends without detention, it may be strained as it will fetch as much, William is better provided for that operation than we are and could get it done for us at an easy expence. I wish I could know the state of William's Cash acct. with us, that he might have the balance; the Lydias last year Bounty was paid some time ago, say in the 5th mo. last 16756.5(I know not why it is reduced from the 1. which was 17412.10 I have forgotten to enquire) the Marias 12500 was received 1 mo. last, which were not on our books when I came away nor the following sums which I have already advised thee of, but will repeat them, viz:

Oil pr. the Mercury-- 8799.2.9
Oil pr. the Dianna--- 36152.14.1
28 Ca. of Biddles---2083.10.9

These sums with the two bounties Lydias and Marias above mentioned may be entered to DeBauques debit if you have not recd. it, from them, as I took it from them.

I wish thou would get the money lent Biddle right, as nothing was done when I came away, he was to have L-150 for a year without Interest, thou can see by J. Husseys acct. when it was commenc'd, if he cannot pay it thou may take a Note of him on Int. in my name, if thou chooses, I must then be

charged with it,as I suppose I have Ord. for the money recd. of Cary for the Ropewalk.-as Mary Coffin intends out in the Spring if oppt* (appointed) she has sent a few articles of her furniture in the (Two) Friends which I have given her the freight of, but I wish nothing said about them, as perhaps some of her husbands former Creditors may wish to take hold of them, they are of little value;I shall write to William to see if any import is due on them.-The two Bills drawn at our Store(I mean we were only as assistants to them) before I came away for Lot Nye and Ebr. Crocker on DeBauques for 1800 Livers* each came to hand a short time past, they call'd on me to inquire if I knew by what authority Lot Nye drew on them,having recd.no effects of his nor having any account with him in their Books, but I could not comprehend it, yet I advised them to pay the Bill and I would guarantee it, supposing his oil must be with Crockers and ship'd in his name only, as the balance of his(Crockers) acct. was about 4000 Livers* and his Bill 1800-if the oil to Crocker's acct. is not part of Nyes, I shall still be at a greater loss, I desire thou would acquaint Nye of it and inquire of Crocker also if thou see him, and write DeBauques on the Subject, and if part of Crockers balance belongs to Nye, an order from Crocker should be sent to place Nyes draft to his acct. Mooers thinks there is some mistake in our calculation with William Wyer on acct. of his son Tim's voige*, he supposes the arrangement was made at a 22d. which if so was wrong as that was a lay if only two crews, but they had three, therefore it brought a 22d.to a 33d.-please to examine and write as soon as may be how it stands-I take it to be the Lydias 2nd voige* but perhaps both. Jos. Wyer. I suppose is gone to America, he left an order with Benjamin to receive his voige* or voiges* obtaind* in the Canton; but he has never called it out of DeBauques hands,but stands to Wyers acct. with them, therefore he must draw on DeBauques for it when he pleases, I mention this as perhaps he may think he may call on me at Nantucket for money,but we can by no means admit of that, as we do not want his money here, nor even wish to have it pass

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through our hands.The Falkland & Brig Mary have been ready to sail two weeks, we have detained them for an answer from Paris, to a request made there which we daily expect, and hope will be favorable. The Penelope is copper'd and will be soon ready for sea, roundCape Horn is her destination, In. Worth,Mr.(Master) with three crews,Moorey takes a quar. of her, Copper and rudder braces were also prepared for the Lydia to go to the Southwd*, but on my arrival finding the great prospect of war between Spain and England in which France will be involved if the first takes place, I did not like to have so much interest out; and besides the Lydia would sell well if a war; The Maria is just fitting.G.G. Hussey Master and owner of one Qur, sold him with her stores as she returned from the voige* at the rate of L-950 Stg. with an agreement to take her back at the end of the voige with a reasonable deduction for her wwear,which was our proposal that Obed Fitch might have her, who will be well deserving a vessell*; if Gorham had or could have been provided for another way,we should willingly have put Fitch or B.Glover in her now, Fitch goes mate of the Maria andGlover mate of the Fame from L.Orient, Peleg Hussey, Mr.(Master) we are looking daily for the Hope, as~~our~~ our hope is that he has had time enough to fill since Thads. Coffin and Isaih Hussey left him, who each brought about 140 tuns, Silas Jones: I suppose about 1000 Bls. had we have known the state of the Falkland before we begun her repairs and addition in America,we should have been gainers to have stripped her and broke her up; but now she is in good order, and I hope will make us one good voige*. Shields, mate--Hammond who now sails from here, supposes ~~Thads. Swain~~ they spoke Thads. Swain on their return from South Sea I beleive a little beyond the line, but being offended that Swain did not shorten sail or some other maneuvre that he thought his duty as a seamen, only spoke him as they past each other,the answer from Swain was from Dunkirk out 46 days, Shields answer was from round Cape Horn with 150 tuns sperm oil,at this sound Swain desire of further information

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was excited he wore ship to have further conversation but Shield's disgust run so high, that he would not suffer him to come up with him,(being a coppered ship) not withstanding, he was himself very desirious of hearing from Europe whether it was peace or war, nor could the importunity of the mate influence his mulish disposition, to stop even to get the intelligence he himself really needed and might if a war been of great advantage to him; yet we speak of it as Swain there being no other Whaler from here that could be any other; I hope he so clearly understood that he had been round Cape Horn, as to have taken the same rout;the Maria we propose going round the Cape of Good Hope off Madagascar and to the eastward if necessary. Obed and G. Whippey seem earnest to go round the West Cape. if we should not succeed in our application to Paris, I do not know but we shall send the Penelope(after being fitted) to America to be Registered under our New Goverment, as her Register** is of our own State only, and I do not know but every vessell is required to have a Register under the General Goverment in a limited time, but not having the Navigation Act I cannot determine this point.-from the great preparations that are making I fear a war with Brittian* and Spain will take place in which as I mentioned before this Country will be involved, Sweeden and Russia have made peace, these two powers and Denmark have as we hear entered into a treaty of alliance but I somewhat doubt it, and have invited France and Spain to unite with them, it is reported this negotiation is far advanced with those powers-Benjamin had made a new arrangement with DeBauques before I came, they complained that they were loosers on the Interest on their advances to us, by being obliged always to have a large sum ready for our call, and that the ballance of interest was against them, and likewise having no Commission on the outfit of the ships(Benj, receiving the money generally and paying the Bills himself) they would freely give up the fishery to other hands rather than continue in that line;therefore for a continuance, their only offer was 6% interest,(instead of 5, heretofore charged) and 4% on the sales of the

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voiges*; which on consideration of some disadvantages that must attend a new connection,he closed with their terms, to which on my arrival I conceded; its continuance will be no longer than we can receive the money for some of our property alreadysold, as I am determined they shall not be in advance for us in future, when it will return to its old fort.I desire thou would draw off James Whippey's account and send us as soon as oppt., as I doubt Benj. ideas are not right of the sum he is indebted, and perhaps there may be some error, This acct. we wish to have before we fix the sum with DeBauque, I have had an offer from DeBauques for the Maria and Eliza of 38,000 Livers*, 3% discount for 6 mos. Interest, but I have insisted on L-1400 Stg. in London,which they as strenuously refuse; if I could know that bills in America on France for Livers* would not exceed 5% loss, I should not hesitate to accept what I could get, which I beleive would be 38,000 without the discount, but with it and 5% loss on the bills would leaveus if I calculate right,L-1458 Stg. and with the 3% added would bring it to L-1505 Stg. in America, but I dare not trust** to it- don't fail to keep us advised of the course of Exchange on France for it is intirely decided that we must draw none on our own(account) acct. payt.(payment) in London; as it cannot be done under 28 and doubt it at that, which makes a very great loss.- I am just informed of a vessell* to sail from London for New York this week;if I ***** have time I intend writing this evening(being post night for London) to James Parsons of Hewes and Anthony to draw on DeBauques on our account One thousand livers* each agreeable to the plan I have already mentioned if the loss including their common* does not exceed 5%., subject to thy alteration by advice to them, if not excuted before they receive it.- I expect two of the men we brot.as hands from Bedford will return on wages with David Sherman and Tristen Chase at 42(pounds) lbs. their wages to begin Shermans 10th mo. 10thD & Chase 9th mo. 30th-as we have paid the rest here;Hayden shall agree with not receive any wages untill his return, Rathbone I expect to pay a months advance to, the 3 French men will have 2 months advance *******

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here, and none must be paid in America. I observe what thou mentions respecting the Jaws of Calummy* being opened wide against me after my departure; this is no better treatment than I expected from my great enemies and their circle(but I trust I am not entirely friendless yet on my native spot) had it been otherwise it must have been in some consequences of a reformation at heart, which would be at present I think somewhat miraculous; but thankfull I am to feel my heart diverted of resentment or wishing them ill, let them wallow in their own mire untill they are weary;banishment, confiscation or other punishment does not the least disturb my tranquility,of which I enjoy a much larger share than in my own country, I want nothing but my dear children and a small circle of my near friends to make me happy as to the enjoyments of this life; I am thankfull as thou observes,we are removed of the reach of inveterate enemies, even whither we are at home or abroad; they know I never fear'd them, which has been a sore mortification to some; after allthey have done or can do; I hope ever to endeavor to fellow the injunction of the great Master; to love my Enemies, bless them that Curse me, and do good them when in my power that evilly intreat me;I have never missed serving that Island when in my power, and am glad I am to feel at this moment the same disposition; but what much affects me and more than any personal censure is to find the great number among our members in Society on our Island that are wishing for a war between England and France, to break up the fishery here, such depravity is truly to be deplored; I think it is probable they will be gratified, but perhaps it may not prove their blessing in the end.Eliza got well here, and is through the small pox; that her parents cannot now make us chargeable for her death by seasickness on the passage, and consequently the provission proposed of a Coffin etc., when she made the attempt to come with her husband hath been unnecessary; let them reflect on their treatment to a son; is he worthy of it; is he a Cain, is he a Renegade, is he the offscouring of all things, that he should be they not only neglected but I beleive I may say hated by them; not a line even from a mother whose tenderness for her own

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dear daughters husband, one would have thought could hardly have been so intirely suppassed-; forget, he never can, but forgive, I hope he will; I desire to close the scene,for tragedys of this kind are too much for any but callous hearts.-Josiah Jun. wife is an aimiable woman, I think worthy of a more equal partner, Benjamin values her much.-Before I close my letter I will give thee a short sketch of the light or importance of the fishery in the Eyes of this nation,by this thou may judge,of the great importance and influence of the great man and his son to overthrow it.Benj. gave us a hint thou may remember, of its having been discussed by a Committee of Commerce and Agriculture, which were ~~unique~~ unimous in favour of its continuance and protection, one disenting voice excepted, who I suppoe was a great Rape-seed farmer, his opposion must equally opperate against the importation from America as on the fishery here, as his aim was to establish Rape oil in the room of whale of all kinds, but Benj.who was present at the discussion, soon refuted him and put him to silence; when they make their report to the assembly,there is no doubt but it will be adopted; previous to this he had a Meeting at Paris with the Minister of State, the Marquis La Fyate, and Jefferson the American Ambassador, part of the conversation was upon the petition from Dunkirk to prohibit all foreign oil being admitted into the kingdom,except American oil; this petition was sent long before this meeting; even when Brittian- was bringing in her oil so plentifully,and Benjamin at that time insisted on American oil being admitted, but the Minister was determined it should not,and dashed out the words, American oil with his own hand, upon which that general prohibition took place, though afterwards the present back door for American oils was open'd and this I suppose was done by Benjamins's means; Jefferson at this meeting charged him obliquely with being the Author of the prohibition on American oil, he denied it and assured him he had been the strenuous advocate for its admission. He appeared to doubt*** it; B. pushed him to know if he really doubted it, telling him if he did, the original petition he added is now present, which would shew*

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him that the exception to Amn. Oil was in the originals, and dash'd out by one of the Ministers now present;he asked which of the Ministers it was; his answer was; it was not for him to be personal in any such matter, but as the Minister was present he knew the truth of what he asserted, and that he had strenuously contended for the admission of American oil. he then acknowledged that he beleived what he said to be true,and seemed satisfied, and not so reserv'd as heretofore; yet after this meeting, the Ambassador drew up a long petition on the same subject, to endeavour to influence the Minister to relinquish the fishery to America, this was sent to the Minister I beleive Necker, accompanied with a letter-which I suppose was a request that it might not be exposed-perhaps with a hope of working secretly with the Minister, which if so; was warrantable and as it was his duty to serve his country in the best manner he could and in this step if the memorial contained nothing but the truth,which I will not say it did, I justify him; but if secrecy was intended, this or some other cause disgusted the Minister, that instead of ** any privacy, he sent it, I beleive,with the letter also direct to DeBauque and Benjamins lodgings,for their perusal and answer, which they did and so effectually refuted all his arguments that the petition shar'd the fate of many others, being put to sleep under the table; The Marquis also shew'd all the friendship for America in his power in this case which was very well; and I think I have understood that the committee of Commerce and Agriculture after their discussion on the subject, and before they decided, sent a deputation to him,(the Marquis) to know if he had any objections to state against the continuance and protection of the fishery in this kingdom; I understood he answered in the negative, or made no objections; much more I might relate but it becomes tiresome to me and doubt it will be so to thee; thus I wish our great men may consider they have not sufficient power to overturn us in this branch, but its probable the war may do it for them if it takes place. I understand the Assembly have decreed the Sale of the Clergs* lands to commence immediately.-In looking over my long scribble, and seeing

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the little importance it contains, being trivial communications, that I beleive thy time is of little consequence, if it cannot be better employed than in its perusals, but accept it as a fire side conversation for the many trivial occurrances that passes as all step along.- I shall write thy dear Eliz. on other subjects or I should make an addition here. please therefore to communicate our love to all our near relatives, and such of our friends as thou may think it acceptable.

I am with great affection.

Thy loving Father.,

Wm. Rotch.

P.S. Staves were a glut when we got here but expect they will do better in the Spring. Our large bbls. 31 pms(premiums) sold at 260 livers*, Carolina bbl. about 10 ms.(measures) unsold,they are not good for this market. Ash barrel about 13 ms. sold at 110 but very heavy, ash ltd. about 1½ ms. unsold.Planks, 5 sous a foot, dull. Our ships frt. exclusive our passages is about 300 L. Stg. if thou can sell bills so as to supply Sweet with Iron and with other articles that he wants,should be glad to have a qut. (quantity) of good harpoons and lances for him.

What I have mentioned respecting B's meeting the Ministers, Ambassador etc. thou may keep within our circle as it is not my intent to publish any thing in our own favour;as truths cannot be recd. by many at this time; I therefore avoid vindication, having a satisfaction in my own mind, that is the result of a consciousness of having done nothing to merit censures so liberally bestowed on me.

Obed Carr has formally forbid* us supplying his Mother any further out of his past voige*; it is fully in his power so to do by the laws of this country and therefore please to put a stop to it and send us her acct. at first oppt.(opportunity) reason is that she is now provided for by a husband. Benj. has lately recd. a remittance of 3000livers* from Port

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Louis out of the 10, the remdr.(remainder) is promised soon but beleive it cannot be spared at present-Wm.will probably be at some expence on the two pts.(payments)., which wish thee to remit him.

Findg(finding) there was a vessell* to sail from London for New York this week, I last eveng.(evening) wrote Hewes and Anthony and J. Parsons & Son(to go by the port) to draw on DeBauques on our acct.Ten Thousand Livers* each when the loss did not exceed 5%, subject to thy direction or attention, if thou saw any better way, I inclosed a very short letter to thee inI. Parsons with this information.-if the fishery should not be put by,by a war, we must have more stores from America,especially molasses, which is dear here. Thou must provide 10 or 15 good cedar boards besides what comes in the 2Friends the vessells* carry out many. I dont mean for molasses to be provided now.-

14th. The wind continuing to the westward prevents the 2 Friends departure; I have just now(at 8 in the evening) recd. a letter from Dickason informing me that last 7 days Garets informs that a Proclamation will soon be issued admittingAmerican oil not only in British, but American bottoms, which I am truly glad to hear, as it will not only serve America, but may prevent our market in this country being over stocked with Sperm oil if not already shipped; it remains under the former duty(L-18.3). The price offer'd in London L-50-but they think something more may be obtained; I understand by this same letter, but not a word from Enderby, that their orders were gone out some time ago for 100 tuns, suppose to our house or Williams. 15th.-Wind not fair but probably will be tomorrow we have this day sold or engaged about 19,000 stoops abt(about) 44 tuns of the Lydias Greenland oil of her last voige* this year at 26 per stoop discount 2%, ready paper money, we expect the remainder with the Penelope and Mary's will go at the same rate very soon, this is not the price such oil ought to fetch, being only 6% more than southern,but we were afraid of a glut from America. Bills on London are growing better, they are expected next Port day to fall to 27- this is a loss of 122% but if bills keep up in America to 5 it consequently

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#8p17

reduces it to 7½- but I hope they will grow better yet, and that they may still do better in America for Livers*. We (5) have put three old sails onbd. (on board) the ~~three Friends~~ 3 Frd for old canvas which shall direct to be sent to Nantucket.

Dinkirk, 10th mo, 12th, 1790 #9 p1

Dear Thomas

Having wrote Sammy every thing that I could recollect necessary in point of business, need not repeat it here; and thy Sister Rodman, on the subject of our present situation etc which she can communicate, renders it needless to go over that ground again by this oppor't, unless I had more time to exercise my pen, the vessell being now ready for departure, my writing excepted, which will soon be compleated. I agreeably find, that a far distant seperation as to the body, has no tendency to abate that paternal love & affection, that I bear to thee, thy dear wife, with the rest of my Children: but on the contrary as prohibition is said, and I believe justly, to sharpen the appetite, an encressing desire for your company has attended me since I left you. I yet hope we may be favour'd to enjoy one anothers company in our native land, but as these things are all hid in the secrets of best wisdom, submission under every dispensation of Divine Providence is our duty, and whether we are ever permit'd to see you more or not, I desire that we on our part, and you on yours may endeavour to live near the fountain of divine love and Life, that we may be favour'd with the breaking of the Heavenly bread at times, that our Spirits may be united in commemoration of the many blessings extended to us by the Great Author of all good; my absence from thee at this time is the more exercising to me, on acc't. of thy being as it were just launching forth into the world, that if by any means the experience of thirty or forty years, might point out to thee, the many Rocks & shoals that I have run upon & that are the constant assailant of our pilgrimage here, though as to myself, through the unbounded mercy & compassionate love of a Gracious helper, not of that fatal kind that many a poor creature have been wreck'd upon, having through my life so far as I can recollect, (for which let all that is within me be ever thankfull) been preserved from gross or immorals conduct; yet am sensible of having fallen short in many religious dutys, may thou be more faithfull and attentive to the Divine voice, which will if attended to point out our duty clearly; good examples in our society are wanting the world over wherever they are scatter'd and with you I thought it was evident that with us at our Island there was a declining, glad should I be to find that I mistake it; but I wish more diligence may possess the youth of our age, that they may fill up the places of us that are in the decline of life, with more propriety by than many of us have done and as to my own dear Children how often have I adopted the language of the Apostle in heart, & somethime with my pen, to some of them, which I think is to this purpose though perhaps not verbation, "no greater joy have I" (or should I have) "than to know my children"(after the flesh, though those that he spoke of were probably spiritual Children, begotten through his ministry) "walk'd in the truth": powerfull indeed is example whether good or evil;good examples adorned with meekness, manifesting a tender love, to those that fall short in duty, accompanied with a desire to reclaim, but not at the expence of the testimony by any means, I believe will ever have better affect than the same example accompanied with Austerity, may thou my dear son, and thou my dear daughter Charity (to whom I would also write if I had time) be true help mates to each other, in the journey Zionward, this is my desire for you more than for outward substance. I have not words to express the love I feel for you, with the desire that accompanys my mind for your wellfare.---When opp't presents, dont fail to communicate our united and affectionate love to dear Sister Rodman if living, with the dear Girls, who seem like branches almost of our own family, if I had time I would write Sister, but do not expect it at this time; I hope some of the family are with you, & will be the winter coming; I was truly glad to hear cousin T. Hazard & wife were at Nantucket, which I think must be an inexpressable satisfaction to you all, & particularly to thy dear Sister Eliza.--I wish you may have the frequent company of our near friends and those that are valuable, you have room en'g.; it was by no means such that I gave thee a hint of before I came away, which I judge thou fully understood me; as

useless

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I am sensible the company of valuable religious friends, have been a blessing to our family. Give my near love to Elly, I omitted mentioning to thee to let our house be a home for her & provide for her which I will do freely, at any time when she should be unwell, or destitute of a place in her line of business, but I hope she will be with thy Sister Rodman as much as she well can. The long time our property is turning here, renders it yet out of my power to provide for thee as I intend, therefore the mode I point out before I came away must remain at present; I have order'd drafts to be made on us, & I hope by another year to arrange matters somewhat to my mind; I have put a few things on board the two Friends; such as have papers (second sheet missing)

#10 P1

Dunkirk 12th mo, 17, 1790

Dear Son Thomas

I wrote thee the 30th in't w'ch is gone by the N. York packet & to Sammy the 13th in't sent to London to be forward'd (in answer to his No. 4, 10 mo. 14.) Last evening I received thine frm. Boston 11 mo, 8th of Cap'n Frazier or Davis, with the joyful tidings of the welfare of our family on your side, but as all terrestial enjoyment (as) trancient & uncertain, this satisfaction was greatly interrupted in a few minutes, being succeeded by an account of Mary being ill of a fever at Cornwall in Ireland, but the account being communicated to us through T. Wagstaffe which was not particular to him, it does not mention whether she was dangerous or not, but we are fill'd with apprehention respecting her recovery, and the more so, from very affecting and afflicting account through the same channels of the removal of her and our dear friend her tutor, Sarah Grubb, with who she went and was as a kind mother to her. Sarah was a very weakly woman, went to Corks Quarterly Meeting attended it the 6th, though much unwell with a fever, took her bed that even'g & breath'd her last the 8th in much calmness and resignation, and although she has left many to mourn the seperation of one of the most valuable women of the present day, not to mention the great loss to her husband, & other near connection, yet I have no doubt that it is her eternal gain, this I fear will opperate powerfully upon the mind of dear little Mary, but I desire we may seek after resignation, to the Divine will, we were well satisfied in her situation, and she ~~is~~ willing to go, and we left it entirely with her, and we have rec'd several comfortable letters from her wherein I think an impression of good is discoverable; but her being so far from us under her present circumstances is a trial not the least kind. As I cannot write now to any other branch of the family thou'll take care to communicate it to all; nor can I enlarge, having to write to Ireland by the post this even'g. We have no acct. whether Sister Rotch is in her bed or not for whom we are anxious. We that are here are all favoured with tolerable health except colds. Our united love attends thee with thy dear wife & rest of our Children & relatives & c, and am,

Thy affectionate Father

Wm. Rotch

To Thomas Mitchell, Nantucket

Dunkirk, 3'd mo, 28, 1791 #11 p1

Dear Son Thomas

My last to thee was 12 mo., 17th, just as we had rec'd the sorrowful tidings of the death of our beloved friend Sarah Grubb, & of the sickness of thy dear Sister Mary in Ireland, she was brought near to death, but through Divine favour hath been rais'd again to a state of usual health except (as she writes) not quite clear of a cough. Thy acceptable letter of the 12 mo., 13th at Bedford concluded the 21st at Nantucket of the Two Friends, I have now before me, the contents whereof afforded me comfort, in believing Heavenly regard hath been extended round thy borders in this our Seperated State, may thou be encouraged to follow every ray of pure light that may open upon thy mind; and early dedication of heart to him who is of purer Eyes than to behold sin and iniquity with approbation or allowance is much more acceptable, than procrastination to a time that fearful apprehensions assail us, either by a sick bed or other alarming circumstances that may announce to us the approach of the messenger of that unalterable decree; that as from dust we come, to dust we must return; and as the hour of this dissolution is wisely hid with the secrets of the Almighty, it is incumbent on us to make streight steps to our feet and endeavour to be ready to meet that awfull period, whenever it shall please Divine Providence to cut the thread of our existence. Thou need make no apology for haste & incorrectness of thy letter from Boston, a line at all times in what ever dress it may appear, from my dear offspring while they are endeavouring to tread in the paths of virtue, which I am comforted in believing is your united desire, will ever be a valuable treasure to me. As I believe steady employment in business so far as not to hinder a religious growth, is really necessary for the good of both body and mind, it has been a grief to me that I have not been able to provide for thee in some way that may answer that good purpose, but glad I am to be able to inform thee that I expect to accomplish my desire soon, so far as to put thee upon the same footing that I have put thy other brothers. Am pleased ~~to hear~~ that it is agreeable for Wm. & thee to unite in such branches of business as may appear best to answer the purpose; that of the Sperm Manufactory & Ropewalk; as thou mentions I much approve, the first will keep your property much at command, the last will open a way to collect oils which will probably do for a time at this market. I shall give Wm. directions to draw on Eng. or France soon where the most advantage may appear. I shall be glad for thee to take part of the weight off his shoulders, as too much ~~in~~ I fear has fallen upon him, but I seem much inclined you should stay at Nantucket until after the Quarterly Meeting am a desire that the Old Mansion may yet be an assylum for those worthies who are willing to take shelter under its roof; next to my own family, the loss of the company of our friends that visit us was one of my greatest trails in our seperation. I rejoice that thou and thou dear wife have already had the experience of this valuable treasure as head of the family in the company of those friends who Quartered with you, H Judge & c. I was truly glad also that Br. Worth often visits you. I suppose he is with you, if so give our endeared love to him, and tell him, that my joy was reciprocal with his in the several opportunties of conference we had at Bedford before our departure, it very much eas'd my mind in repeating several circumstances to him relative to our departure. Give our united love also to Cousin Mary Mitchell, likewise to thy Uncle & Aunt Brown & children, Uncle Benj. & Aunt Lois, Aunt Sarah, with all our cousins & near relatives as those named, with Cousin Jon'n & Lois, Wm. Hussey & wife, D. Green & wife, Fillet & wife with others that think us worthy of inquiring ~~of~~ Thy Grandmother Barney, Uncle Jon'n & Aunt Abiel, Uncle I. & Phebe Swain & c. The fish sweet corn & shoes came safe, thy exertions for the sweet corn have been greater than I wished, but I accept them all from thee & dear Charity as endeared marks of filial regard; what of the Corn thou purchased, place to my account, but I doubt you have not made any reserve for yourself for which I shall be sorry, AS I desire you should enjoy with us the comforts of this life. Tell Charity not to fail making use of stores & c left in the house. When opp'r presents communi-

[28 Mar 1791] #11p2

cation of near love to thy dear Mother Rodman & daughter. I often think of them with inexpressable affection. If I had time I would write sister, but I do not expect it at present, I also fear shall not have time to write Charity lay this conveyance if so she will not impute to a want of regard. I am with endeared love to you jointly thy truly affectionate father

W. Rotch

29th

We have just rec'd the sorrowful tidings of the loss of the ship Ville de Paris (Shubl Gardner late M'r) near Salm' in this channel, three men drowned, one of whom is Ruben Gardner; I wish the tidings may be judiciously conveyed to his nearest relatives, the other two belong'd to this place. Vessell & cargo lost.

London, 6th mo., 18th, 1791

My dear Son Thomas

I rec'd thine of the 4th mo. 5th sometime past, and although we are depriv'd of your desirable company, it is an inexpressable satisfaction to receive the affectionate communication of our dear Children, more especially when it announces the continued favour of that inestimable blessing, health which hath been abundantly dispensed to our family, and loudly calls for a united return of Gratitude to the Father of Mercy & Our desires to return to America, I believe are equally strong with that our Children, and as early a period as the nature of the business in our coming to Europe will admit, which I think if favour'd with health will not exceed the time propos'd when we left America. I love my native spot or rather its Inhabitants, but from a fear of increasing depravity, my desires of resuming my former residence is much abated though I wish never to omit any opportunity in the line of duty of serving them, notwithstanding the flood Gates of envy & reproach are suffer'd to be set open, yet a conciousness of innocence, hath been such a shield to my mind, that I know not that the recitals of those maligent censures have ever disturb'd me; but have been able to say let them Rage & Roar untill their fiery spirits are exhausted , I have not even a desire that my few friends should even undertake my vindication. If we are favour'd to return, I believe we shall settle in Bedford, have wrote Wm. & Sammy on the Subject, as also on the exchange of the Mattenois farm with Col'n Kemoton if can be done on equal terms, likewise desire he may not sell Dr. Perrys house. I observe what thou says, respect'g the representation & abouse of certain persons, but whatever you do, be careful not to meet them in their own Spirit, but keep cool and deliberate with reason, for passion soon carries a man off the right foundation. I am glad to find there are yet a number who can feel disgust at such enormities as have been pratis'd & c, but after all those confused in wordly affairs, let us remember there is a better way, which will if rightly pursued yield the peacable fruits of Righteousness and joy everlasting, when time to us in this world shall be no more. I entirely approve thy removing to Bedford and am sorry that I mentioned anything discouraging on the subject, especially under the circumstances of thy dear wife, sincerely desiring everything may be done that can contribute to her comfort. I have long since wrote Wm. & I believe to thee also, that I hade made provission for thee of a thousand pounds Stg. or 30,000 livers that he might draw for whenever wanted. We are all favour'd with health. Intend setting off for Dunkirk on 2'd day next, that is, thy mother, 2 sisters & self accompanied by our friend Lewis Majolier, a valuable young man from Languadoc who hath attented the yearly meeting; he was in the law department, was convinced, and hath an acceptable gift in the ministry; superintends a school in his own country set up by friends there; a much more humble employment than his former; I attended some friends yesterday on the deliberation of a proposal of our friend J. Mareiliac to I. Eliot of this city desir'g the simpathy and advice of friends here respect'g the opening a meeting in Paris their being fourteen persons, who are desirous of meeting together under the persuasion, that there is plac'd in every man, a Divine inward teacher sufficient if attended to, not only to preserve us from evil, but to direct us in the unerring way to salvation; it was a humbling consideration to some present, in believing that a great work was upon the wheels, and a desire was rais'd that it might not be marred, but that many holy vessells might be form'd and brought forth fit for the Great Masters use; I believe it was our unanimous desire, which will probably be recommended; that they first have ω

solid open conference together, and endeavour to find how far they feel themselves favour'd with strength, to set down together in silent waiting for direction from the Great Master, without the aid of outward ministry until it shall please him in his own time to open the way, and also whether they apprehend themselves favour'd with a hope of a sufficient degree of strength, to bear the mockings and scoffings that are so commonly the attendance of sincere religious engagements; but above all to recommend them carefully to attend to that, that hath convinc'd them, and that to act as in the Divine light way may open; of these persons, three, I am acquainted with, to whom when in Paris I felt great nearness, and a desire for their preservation. I wish to hear often from thee if but a few lines; and likewise how it is with Sister Rodman & the family, to whom communicate our very affectionate love, as well as to our dear Bedford & Nantucket relatives & friends in general. I have never yet heard whether Benj. Worth has removed to Nantucket; if so give our kind love to him and wife when opp'r.----------I have not time to enlarge save to say that our united love attends thee and dear Charity in which I am thy affectionate father

W. Rotch

Our love to Elly.----------I now enclose thee the Testimonies concerning our dear deceased fr'd S. Grubb, which I wish may circulate among our near relatives and friends. Send a copy to Sammy as I have not time.

To Thomas Rotch, New Bedford
Capt Thad Swain

#13 P1

Dunkirk, 9th mo., 9th, 1791

Dear Son Thomas

My last to thee was the 6th mo., 18th ult. frm. London which I suppose went by Cap't Barnard, since which I have rec'd none from thee. I hope it is long since thou clearly understood that I had made provisions for a thousand pounds hg[illegible] in sterl'g or livers for thee, to be drawn for, either by thyself or Wm. whenever it could be made use of, but I am a little concern'd to find no draft for that purpose has yet appear'd; and I may now acquaint thee that thou may augment it to fiveteen hund' pounds sterg, or its value in livers, always remembering it is best to draw for the latter when it can be done, as the loss on stg. is 25 pct. here, which with the advance of 5 pct. on bills in Boston, still leaving 20 pct. clear loss, but dont let that circumstance prevent thy having the money unless it cannot be appropriated to any advantage, in which as well as every other matter of business thou can have the assitance of the brother Wm. if favour'd with life & health; I also wish to know if it is thy choice to still continue thy Interst of One Thous'd pounds in our stocks which is now chiefly employ'd in the fishery here, very little business I suppose to be done at Nantucket by our House, nor do I wish to attempt it there, unless head matter can be manufactur'd to a advantage. We are now anxious to hear from dear Charity as well as the rest of our near connections; we were much rejoic'd to hear that dear Sister Rodman was with you. I hope she is still there and in the enjoyment of better health than for sometime past. I wish it was her choice to remain at Bedford & have the family there, as I think it would afford her more comfort than to be at Newport in the approaching dreary season. I want much to write her, but doubt it by this oppor't, which is by Thad's Swain, as I am much engag'd, he intends to depart tomorrow, and we expect the very agreeable company this evening if they have been able to pass the water, of our valuable friends Wm. Tuke (husband to Esther) his daughter Ann, John Hoyland + wife the three last public. It is great satisfaction to find we are remember'd by our friends while in this remote coner (as to friends) I have not time to say much at present must refer thee to Samuel for what relate to business. We are all favour'd with health at present. Mary remains with us, & I believe will not go again to Ireland, on acct. of the great distance only. Our united & endeared love attends thee, with thy dear wife & mother Rodman & every branch of our & her family with Jos. & Patience & any other our frds. there. I am thy affectionate father

W. Rotch

I cannot recollect that I have said anything to thee respect'g our New Chaise at Nantucket, but always meant for thee to take it, with thee, & use it as well as the horse. I hope Sammy has reduced our stock of cows. Thy mother has some articles to send thee but the opp'r is uncertain. I fear I shall not have time to write Wm. by this conveyance.

Addressed to Mary Rodman, Newport
To the care of Wm. Rotch Jr. New Bedford.
Received ye 10th of 11 month 1791.

#14 p1

Dunkirk, 9th mo, 10th, 1791

Dear Sister

Although I expect little to say worth putting on paper, yet feeling the flowings of Brotherly affection toward thee and thy dear Child'n, as well those who are not immediately connected with our family as those that are, I thought I would give thee this little token of the remembrance of one who hath from our first intimate acquaintance been ever dear to me; an in whose welfare I feel deeply interested; I am truly glad to hear thou was by our last acct. with our dear Charity at Bedford, for whom we are greatly solicitous, and wish thou could make it agreable to continue with her, we feel much for her and it was with great regret we parted from her so soom after the connection took place. It is a comfort to us to be inform'd that thou hast been favour'd with better health of late, than for sometime past; may it please Divine Goodness to continue still a larger portion of that inestimable blessing the few remaining moments that may yet be continued to thee. I expect thou hast been in some measure inform'd by our Children in what manner part of my time has been employ'd since we reach'd Europe; first to Paris, then to Ireland, thence to the yearly meeting in London where our family except Eliza all met to our mutual satisfaction, here also I once more met with many of my near friends which after an absence of five years, was a pleasing event; among the rest was our aged, infirm, but dear friend Esther Tuke, who is almost blind as to natural sight, but pleasing it is, to see such when nature is thus decay'd and centering to its original dust, that the Spiritual senses are living and bright, and that their setting sun is likely to go down without any interveneing clould to cast a shade upon them, This I trust will be the case with this our valuable friend; whose company I was favour'd with several times, which I believe was mutually satisfactory, and to me edefying; she enquir'd affectionately after thee & desires her love when I wrote, she rec'd thy very acceptable letter, but should not wonder if she did not acknowledge it in the same way, as what she does in that way must be by another hand, under her dictating, her eyesight as I said before being almost gone; we have now the pleasing hope every day of seeing her husband and daugh'r Ann (the youngest daug' but one) with John Hoyland & his wife, all but Wm. are public, they have obtained certificates for that purpose, & were to set sail if a suitable time, from Hull the 8th in't., but I doubt the wind that day was not favourable; it is some encouragement to find that we are remembered in this sequester'd (as to our friends) corner of the world, I wish we may so conduct as to be favour'd with its continuance. I should rejoice to hear from thee, but lay no injunction, know'g infirmity and the calls of thy children may engrace much of thy time; and as I keep neither debt nor credit in this way with my frds. shall not omit writing on that acct., if I could find any thing that I thought would compensate the time of perusal. We are all favour'd with health at present, except Benj. who took a great cold yesterday, but is about though almost sick, but hope it will pass off soon. I have not time to say more than that the united love of our family attends thee, & thine & our dear Children, in which I may with propriety subscribe myself

Thy very affectionate Brother
W. Rotch

P.S. When we were at Paris I saw the Vicomot Noille, who desir'd me to communicate his respects to Tho's. Robinson, wife & daughter when I had opportunity in which a Doctor (whose name I dont know) that lived in the house at the same time with the Vicomot, joined in the same request; if thou'll place to communicate it when an easy opp'r. offers, shall be oblig'd; he was very friendly to us & much favour'd our petition.

Addressed to Thomas Rotch
To the care of Mr Joseph Hussey in Boston
& Captn Stoddard
New Bedford
State of Massachusetts

#15 p1

Dunkirk, 9th mo, 27th, 1791

* ? Barnards

Dear Son Thomas

I wrote thee the 9th Int. by Thad's Swain, who left us the 11th In't. passenger in a ship bound for Norfolk in Virginia. I also wrote Sam'l & Wm. the 17th by Matthew Jenkins via New York, who sail'd on first day last the 25th in Sloop Illinois Capt. Storer for Phila. or New York as should be most convenient, the Lydia B. Clark also left us on first day, it has ever since been a fine easterly wind, I expect they are nearly out of the channell. The Dianna already waiting * N Barkards arrival for David Swain to take her, but neither he, I. Jones, Thad's Coffin or The Canton yet make their appearance. I hope it will not be long before they arrive, though we do not know when to look for the Canton.

Please to inform Sam'l that all the bone by the Dianna is sold at last, but we have not yet got the amount of sales so that we are uncertain as to the loss; all our other bone is also sold as well as our other effects except the Lydias & Dianna & Greenland oil which is going off slowly at 36 sous a pot; a good price if there was not 25 perct. deduction for loss on exchange.

As I have repeatly mentioned a wish for thee to be furnished with a thousand pounds stg. or the value in Livers, and in my last augment'd to 1500 which I now confirm, hope thou hast take some steps to possess thyself of the money, that thou may commence such business with thy brother Wm. as you may agree upon. We are anxious to hear from Charity, I hope no time will be lost in communicating her situation with the rest of the family, both at Nantucket and Bedford. We have just had a most agreeable visit from Wm. Tuke, his dau'r Ann, E. Hoyland & wife & Henry Taylor, the three middle ones public. They were at two meetings with us and visited the family separately. In ours they had a very favour'd opp'r much to our comfort. They are all of Yorkshire (except Henry farther north) they took shipp'g at Hull and landed at Ostend (the first ever held by friends in that place to our knowledge) we, that is thy mother, Brother, sisters, Lydia and Mary with myself accompanied them there, and returned back here about ten in the evening of the next day; the people behav'd very civilly considering their ignorance of us; and I hope no ill impressions were left to prevent further opportunity of this kind as may open; they left us on 6th day morn'g. last for Calais on their way to their own habitations, where I hope they will arrive safe with the reward of Peace, A. Tuke is a young woman of about 23, just enter'd upon the service in the Ministry in a few words, when I was before in Eng'd. & will I have no doubt if preserv'd in the line of Duty, become eminently gratified for the service; E. Hoyland also has a beautifull gift exceed'g Ann in some lines at present; her husband a valuable man & in the right line of ministry but an impediment in his Speech, renders his testimony not so elegant, but is sound, which is the main point.-------It is long since I have had any mention as to Ellys health, hope by nothing being said she has recover'd.----------
I have not time to add except the united love of our whole family to the Dr. Charity, Wm. & Eli's , Sister Rodman with Thos. Nancy & the rest of the daughters with Patince & c as if named in which I am thy aff't father.

W. Rotch

P. S. We are all well at present; no acct. of any of our Whalers.

Thomas Rotch, New Bedford, Mass.
Favored by Gilbert Swain.

#16 p1

Dunkirk 12th mo, 16th, 1791

Dear Son Thomas

I duly rec'd and with satisfaction perused Thy acceptable letter of the 8 mo., 20th by the Ann, and although I have regain'd much strength since my indisposition, yet having had much to write this opp'r on business, I found it rather prey'd on my strength, and my nerves fail'd, so that I reluctantly gave up writing to thee yesterday, when the vessell was to sail, & our letters hastely closed; but they gave up their departure untill tomorrow which gives me this pleasing opp'r of rendering thee some token of paternal affection.

Greatly rejoic'd we were to hear that Dear Charity had pass'd through a trial which has ever to me, respecting my near relatives, been attended with greater anxiety & near simpathy, I believe than any other common female attendant in their progress through time; it is also an additional satisfaction as well as great favour that she so soon recover'd; hope she has experienced a continuance of health as well as the Child (who kiss'd for me.) The account thou gives of our dear friends Mary, Sam & Tho's. with the family settings & c deeply effects me with humble gratitude to the Author of all our blessings, in that his continued favour hath been extended from Parents to Children in an eminent manner; prize the priviledge of entertaining the Messengers of the Gosple, but more the frequent opportunity of experiencing the distilling of the Heavenly rain upon your heads, which I hope will not be like the morning dew before the sun, but may remain as a sweet savour, to the animating your minds to press forward toward the great Prize; I well know the Company, conversations, but above all the retir'd settings & communicating of such in our habitation, has been a great Blessing & Our Family, but I find myself far Short, yea very far of that improvement which I ought to have made; yet am thankfull that in this advanc'd age, I sometimes feel a desire to double deligence, in seeking and securing through Divine Mercy, the things that belong to my peace; dear Tho's some of you are now so situated as to possess a priviledge, which I did not enjoy; (though my own fault) and that is , you have (Wm. excepted) no more business than if rightly tim'd is necessary for both body & mind, for I believe employment is really usefull & we are unsafe without it; Idleness I wish may never be the lot of any of my posterity now in my youthfull days, notwithstanding the Heavenly impressions frequently extended to my mind, which I often felt ardent desires I might retain with encrease, yet the great & extensive round of business which continually, rested on my shoulders, much too much for one person, would seem sometimes, (if not to be effected by a lureing prospect) take possession as it were by storm, of my poor weak mind; therefore by way of caution, not to let the aluring things of this world, nor any other circumstance dispossess him whose right it is to resign, I may use the words of the Poet "Happy is he"-----""who others harms wary makes to be. I unite with thee, that it has been a time of renewed visitation to the branches of our Family; and my ardent desire is that you may improve upon it & not let go your holds perhaps it may be the last that it may please Divine Wisdom to extend in a eminent manner; in a considerable space of time, he has declar'd he will not always strive with man: therefore it might be of great advantage for a fear to attend us, that every dispensation of this inspird with a degree of holy resolution, to improve upon the late merciful dispensation so eminently extended, therefore all be encouraged and dont let go your hold; remember he that is in you, is greater & stronger than he that is in the world. I wrote sometime past, whether to Sam'l or thee I do not recollect; that I wish'd thee furnishd with L 500 stg. more 15th with L 1000 rec'd * kind might be the last: I hope what I have wrote, will not tend to any discouragement; for I may tell thee respecting you all my dear children; that I am comforted in a degree which I cannot express, in believing, that you are all

(Investment?) sheet 2d 12 mo 16-91 [16 Dec 1791] #16p2

rec'd. & the L 1000 Inv' in the fishery here will make the L 3000 Inv'. I have now requested Sam'l. if not done to do it as soon as he is in cash, which I expect will be frm. Philad'a., to this I have desir'd him to add L 500 on acct. of the proffits in the Fishery, this to be includ'g what thou hast rec'd on acct. not on the stocks. I cannot judge with any degree of certainty what the Profit is but hope more than that. Thou art right in thy judgment respecting the Canton need'g more repairs than either of us expected: if it does no t exceed L 400 Inv. it will be well worth doing: but among the new timbers thou makes no mention of the Stern Knee, which was very rotten, & I fear is overlooked, I doubt not thy attention to the business, but I suppose (indeed I have heard) that Carpenters are very Scarce, & perhaps seasond plank or other things not to be got. We have this day been examing the Maria and find her almost as bad & perhaps worse than the Canton, therefore she cannot proceed her voige; I wrote Sammy if we found her bad we should notsend her to America, but to London we have since alterd our minds, & think of send'g her to America toward Spring this we can better do because we intend to buy a vessell in this Country immediately to put the Crew into, therefore it will not deminish our number as the Canton: * I desire thou would have timber immediately prepared as much, or more than the Canton took, indeed a surplus never comes amiss, remember she is a Sharp vessell, therefore the Carpenter must guess, but enquire & look first for seasond timber if thou could find a whole frame already cut and only partly seasoned got, had ratherhad the whole bot, than not, as it is not a Sharp one perhaps many parts would do, she will want top timber I know not how many but perhaps a pretty many; we cannot have her done with green timber had rather she would remain there a whole year, she wants a new upper main deck have some planks hand sawed longand 2½ inches when seasoned as soon as maybe, she is so fine a vessell of her size for whaling that we cannot think of breaking her up, if she can be repair'd for L 500 Inv'. Hope it will not take more than £400 and perhaps three may do it) her timbers are some what small I do not expect she will want any outboard plank like the Canton, having lately been new trunnelld & no defects in the plank found: get lowest trunnels & have them season'd. She can be made to hold 1000 bar. from the fishery & was prepar'd for that this voige, but being incumberd with Whippeys men, obligd him to come away & leave whales as plenty as he wnated: communicate what I hav wrote thee respecting the Maria to Sam'l (as I dont expect to write again now,) as soon as thou can, but then set thyself through the best channell that can to provide timber, if none to be found seasond, have some cut at a venture, tell the Carpenter she is a Sharp vessell abt. 200 tuns remember no timbercan come amiss for we always ought to have a stock on hand. Get a full stock top timber we know she wants some especially at all the Chairs and perhaps many more, she is about 10 or 10½ feet hold, * but get it longer between deck perhaps 4½ or 9 inches. We sometime get handsaw'd planks from J Lamebee, only it needs a careful man to pick or to get them sawed good, but provide that way & for plank stock also, as they cannot come amiss, provision also ought to me made for spars, for top mast & fore & main yard, smaller Spars I suppose is easier got. Not recollect'g any thing further to add at present except the united love of the family to thyself dear Charity & all our relatives at Bedford & Newport I remain thy affectionate father.

W Rotch

* now as it is probable she will want much the same kind of timbers as the Canton
* but have the timber a little longer if not already cut, I believe she is but 10 feet hold